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USAID/OFDA Quarterly Program Performance Report	
Program Title: Restore Food Security and health of conflict - affected and displaced populations in the Central African Republic	
Project Dates: September 20, 2015 – September 19, 2016	
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Country/Region:	Central African Republic (CAR)
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Time Period covered by report	September 20, 2015 – December 31, 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report captures progress against planned activities, Indicators and Objectives from September 20-December 31 2015. The main activities completed within the reporting period were:

- Objective 1: Selection of the majority of beneficiaries occurred within the reporting period subsequently followed by the distribution of vegetable seeds to 391 households in early December.
- Objective 2: 10 boreholes and 5 shallow wells were selected for rehabilitation. Sites were selected for the construction of latrine blocks in IDP camps. 30 WASH committees have been established and 10 pump mechanics have been identified for training.

The threat of insecurity due to the elections necessitated that the agricultural training for farmers be postponed from an early December start date to a mid-January start. Training in early January will ensure that the majority of farmers receive their training before the commencement of planting.

SECTOR 1: Agriculture and Food Security

Objective 1: Targeted Beneficiary households have restored crop production, livestock and food consumption

During this quarter 25 participatory meetings were held across 25 project sites in beneficiary communities hosting returnees and in IDP camps. The meetings convened community leaders, men, women and young people to explain the objectives of the OFDA-funded project. Meetings were also held with local government officials and NGOs working in the area. These ensured that all stakeholders were engaged in, and supportive of the project.

Beneficiary and Village Beneficiary Committee (VBC) selection

The Tearfund team conducted a participatory beneficiary selection process through meetings organised in each beneficiary community. Each community was divided into five groups according to social status, gender and demographics including community leaders (representatives of local associations, traditional leaders, local administrators, village headmen and women, representatives of youth association, women's organization), men, women and youth, both male and female. These groups scrutinized and validated the pre-prepared selection criteria before compiling lists of potential beneficiaries. Each of the groups subsequently randomly selected a representative to participate in the final selection of beneficiaries. The lists from the different groups were then presented to a general meeting of the group representatives who reviewed and finalised the beneficiary lists before they were published in all identified villages.

The project with target 2,000HH with seed distributions and 500HH with livestock distribution. Of those households receiving livestock 250HH will also be beneficiaries of seeds distributions and 250HH will solely benefit from livestock distribution. The project has so far been able to select 11,874 individuals from 1,971 vulnerable households. Further beneficiary selection to reach the total targeted 2,250 households is ongoing. The larger than anticipated beneficiary numbers are due to a larger family size than expected, 6 per household, rather than 5. This is due to multiple families living together in this context of displacement.

Table 1: Beneficiary numbers selected to date, Food Security and Agriculture (no double counting).

Sector	IDPs in Boda Camp	IDPs in Host Communities	Host/Returnees	Total Beneficiaries segregated by sex		
				M	F	Total

Agriculture & Food Security	2,244	1,608	7,674	5,909	5,965	11,874
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After selecting the beneficiaries, the Tearfund team embarked on identifying members of the VBCs according to the following criteria composition criteria, at least 30% women, people who were able to read and write, had lost assets and loved ones during the crisis, were willing to contribute in the mobilization of members of their community to effectively participate in the project, had land where they could farm and would participate in the selection of seeds and the setting up of Agricultural Field Schools in their locality.

Crop and vegetable seeds and tools distribution

The selection of field farms and their demarcation was organised by the Tearfund team and subsequently early-maturing vegetable seeds, (tomato, spinach, and amaranths) were distributed on December 9 and 10 to 391 households in 8 farmers groups. Additional seed distributions will occur in February 2016.

The procurement of the remaining vegetable seeds has been completed and the acquisition of crop seed and livestock is currently in progress and likely to be completed in quarter two. Land preparation for the planting of vegetables is on track and planting is expected to commence at the beginning of quarter two and be ongoing through the planting season, till the end of February.

Trainings on agricultural techniques and nutrition to VBCs had been scheduled for December 2015 but were postponed due to the threat of unrest resulting from the referendum and elections. At the end of the quarter the preparations for these trainings were at an advanced stage and they will be completed in early January and February 2016 to ensure that the maximum number of VBC's receive the agricultural training before vegetable seed distribution, the end of the planting season in February and well before the staple crop planting season in May and June.

Table 3: Summary of project activities planned and executed in Q1 (20th September 2015 - 31st December 2015)

Activity	Progress/Achievement
Sub sector 1: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security	
Beneficiary Selection and formation of VBCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11,874 beneficiaries were selected, 2,244 in IDP sites, 1,608 IDPs settled in host communities and 7,674 returnees in host communities VBC's have been formed
Crop and vegetable seeds and tools distribution (2,000HH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetable seeds distribution is ongoing to meet the December, January and February planting season. The first distribution occurred on December 9th and 10th. Crop seeds will be distributed in March to coincide with the season for staple crop planting.
Training of VBC and Rural Farmer association (250) on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity was postponed from December to January and February 2016 (Q2)

nutritional diversity and techniques of farming	due to heightened political tension caused by the elections and referendum.
Training on cross-cutting issues (500 HH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity was postponed to complete in March 2016 (Q2).
Training VCBs on Humanitarian Accountability principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training was completed for the 25 member VCBs, of which 8 VCBs are in IDP camps, 4 VCBs among the IDPs in host community and 13 VCBs in the returnee communities.
Sub sector 2: Livestock	
Livestock distribution to 500 HH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement is ongoing and distribution is planned for March 2016 (Q2) when the chicks will be less at risk from fowl disease outbreak in the region.

Table 2: Impact Indicator Progress

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Sub-Sector 1 : Improving Agricultural Production and Food Security					
Indicator 1	Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural inputs for beneficiary households.	3.4	4	0	0
Indicator 2	Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex.	0	Total: 11,250	391	391
			Male: 5,602	195	195
			Female: 5,648	196	196
Indicator 3	Percentage of vegetable seed beneficiary households cultivating vegetable gardens by the end of the project period	0	1,600	0	0
Indicator 4	% of the target population who achieve Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)	36%	65%	0	0
Sub-Sector 2 : Livestock					
Indicator 1	Number of people benefiting from Livestock Activities by sex	0	2,500	0	0
			M: 1,245	0	0
			F: 1,255	0	0
Indicator 2	Number of animals benefitting from or affected by livestock activities	0	2,000	0	0

SECTOR 2: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Objective 2: To restore access to potable water supply and sanitation facilities among conflict affected communities

Beneficiary Selection

Beneficiary selection has been undertaken through the mapping and selection of water supply infrastructure to rehabilitate. Direct beneficiaries of the WASH infrastructure are calculated according to the number of people in each beneficiary community who will be accessing water from the rehabilitated water supply. These communities in which water supplies are rehabilitated will also benefit from hygiene promotion activities in their communities and schools. Further selection is ongoing to reach the targeted 35,000 beneficiaries

Table 2: Beneficiary numbers selected to date WASH (no double counting).

Sector	IDPs in Boda Camp	IDPs in Host Communities	Host/Returnees	Total Beneficiaries segregated by sex		
				M	F	Total
WASH sector	2,244	1,608	13,987	8,479	8,560	17,839

Construction of Latrine Blocks and Bathing Facilities in IDP camps

Five sites for the location of the bathing facilities have been identified in St Michel camp, which will get 2 blocks of bathing facilities, Camp Fonctionnaire, which will get 1 block of latrines, and Cotonaf Camp which will get 1 block of latrines. All the latrines constructed will have hand washing stations.

Establishment of WASH Committees (30)

The main achievement of the quarter is the formation of 30 WASH Committees in targeted communities. Each WASH committee is formed of 9 members. WASH committee training will be rolled out in the next quarter.

Water Supply Infrastructure

The project will rehabilitate or protect: 10 boreholes, 20 shallow wells and 10 springs. During this quarter, 10 boreholes and 5 shallow wells were selected for rehabilitation. The selection of contractors for the construction work is underway and it is expected that works will start in February. The selection of 10 pumps mechanics has been completed and training will commence in quarter two.

Table 3: Summary of project activities planned and executed Q1 (September 20 -December 31, 2015)

Activity	Progress/Achievement
Sub sector 1: Sanitation Infrastructure	
What was the planned activity?	What progress/achievements were made?
Beneficiary Selection	Beneficiary selection is ongoing.
Train CHVs	Community Health volunteers will be trained in subsequent quarters.
Distribution of digging tools	Distribution will occur in Q2
Construction of Latrine Blocks and Bathing Facilities in IDP camps	Five sites for the location of the bathing facilities were identified in St Michel Camp, Camp Fonctionnaire and Cotonaf camp. Selection of contractors will commence in Q2
Sub sector 2: Hygiene Promotion	
Establishment of WASH Committees (30)	30 WASH Committees have been established. They will receive training in the next quarter.
Hygiene Promotion Training (60 promoters in 30 communities)	This will occur in subsequent quarters
Water Point maintenance & repair	During the WASH infrastructure mapping exercise, 10 boreholes and 5 shallow wells have been selected. Protection work will commence in the next quarter.
Water Safety plans and Water Quality Monitoring	This will occur in subsequent quarters
Hand washing facilities alongside communal latrines in IDP locations	This will occur in subsequent quarters
Hygiene and Sanitation Media	This will occur in subsequent quarters
Maintenance of Latrines	This will occur in subsequent quarters
Sub sector 3: Water Supply Infrastructure	
Rehabilitation of Boreholes (10)	Not yet done
Protection of Shallow Wells (20)	During the WASH infrastructure mapping exercise, 5 of 20 shallow wells have been selected.
Protection of Springs (10)	During WASH infrastructure mapping exercise, 5 out of 10 springs have been selected.

Training of pump mechanics (10)	Identification of all ten pump mechanics is complete. Training will commence in the next quarter
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Table 4: Impact Indicator Progress

Indicators		Baseline	Target	Progress this quarter	Cumulative Progress to date
Sub-Sector 1 : Sanitation Infrastructure					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the sanitation infrastructure program	0	22,201	0	0
Indicator 2	S1: Number of households with no evidence of faeces in the living area	2,658	4,408	0	0
Indicator 3	S4: Number of clean HH latrines completed.	0	1,400	0	0
Indicator 4	S5: Number of people per usable latrine	To be assessed next quarter	5	0	0
Indicator 5	S6: Number of hand washing facilities in use	427	4,408	0	0
Sub-Sector 2 : Hygiene Promotion					
Indicator 1	Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting)	0	28,000	0	0
Indicator 2	HP1: Number of respondents who know 3 of 5 critical moments to wash hands	5,282	21,000	0	0
		M: 2,630	M: 10,458	0	0
		F: 2,652	F: 10,542	0	0
Indicator 3	HP2: Number of HH with soap and water (or ash) at a hand-washing location	To be assessed next Quarter	1,400	0	0
Indicator 4	HP3: Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers (Safe Water Handling)	541	4,200	0	0
Indicator 5	HP4: Number of HH drinking water supplies with 0 fecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	0	4,900	0	0
Indicator 6	HP7: Number of village water user committees active at least 3 months after training	0	28	0	0

Indicator 7	HP8: Number of water points that are clean and protected from contamination	0	40	0	0
Sub-Sector 3 : <i>Water Supply Infrastructure</i>					
Indicator 1	Number of people directly benefiting from the water supply programme	0	21,000	0	0
Indicator 2	WS1: Average litres/person/day collected from all sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene	13.5	15.0	0	0
Indicator 3	WS2: Estimated water supplied per beneficiary in litres per person per day	To be assessed next quarter	15	0	0
Indicator 4	WS3: Number of test results with 0 faecal coli forms per 100 mL sample	0	270	0	0
Indicator 5	WS5: Number of HH collecting water for drinking, cooking and hygiene from improved water sources	0	4,200	0	0
Indicator 6	WS6: Number of water points which are actively utilizing their Water Safety Plan	0	28	0	0

BUDGETORY PROGRESS

Overall spending is on track for this quarter. The overall expenditure at the end of Q1 is \$158,194, 14% of the total budget.

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

The most significant challenge during the reporting period has been ongoing insecurity. All project activities had to be suspended for two weeks in September due to civil unrest as goods and staff remained under lock down in Bangui. This delayed staff deployment and project implementation from 26th September to 10th October 2015. As result, the project has encountered delays of about 1-2 months which have especially impacted the baseline survey, the community engagement process, beneficiary selection and the mapping of water points. Where possible without compromising quality some of the activities will be combined during the implementation in order to ensure that the project timeline remains on track. Further threat of insecurity over the elections in December saw the office closed for two weeks necessitating a slowdown in activities as international staff left the country. However the team are confident that activities will be on track by the completion of Q2.

Logistical Constraints

The local market is poorly sourced in CAR and the number of reliable suppliers with sufficient capacity to meet the increased demands of international aid agencies is small. Low internal growth combined with limited importation is compounding this situation making procurement increasingly challenging. The insecurity in September further worsened the situation affecting the few businesses still operational in CAR. This has created challenges and delays in the procurement of hand pump repair kits, services

contractors, seeds but the team have now identified suppliers for all items. Tenders for key project supplies and service contractors have been publicised and application process is in progress.

Human Resources

Lack of skilled staff locally is an ongoing issues in the Central African Republic. To address this Tearfund is in process of restructuring staffing on the programme to fit the context including the use of short term contracts to cover key positions while waiting for the recruitment process to complete.